



## Partnership for the National Trails System Statement of Inclusion

The Partnership for the National Trails System (Partnership) recognizes that national trails are a powerful way to connect with nature, history, and culture. These trails cultivate a society that values protection and stewardship for our natural, cultural, historic, and scenic resources. We also recognize there are historical injustices that have resulted in barriers that prevent people from accessing trails and their resources. The national trails community perceives these obstacles as moral and strategic opportunities to bridge gaps and expand our capacity to protect and promote the National Trails System. We are committed to actively overcoming these obstacles as a community and enacting positive systemic change within our trails network and extended outreach.

The Partnership will foster an inclusive National Scenic and Historic Trails community that values and engages the perspectives and contributions of all individuals beyond social, political, and cultural boundaries. This includes acknowledgement of original inhabitants and their historic legacy to these sites. We will work to ensure equal opportunities for everyone to access our National Scenic and Historic Trails as well as feel valued and represented. The Partnership will identify barriers that prevent people from accessing trails and their resources. In turn, we will strive to find solutions to reduce these barriers and aid groups and individuals in overcoming them through direct outreach or other means. As a continually learning organization, we will encourage our members to routinely evaluate and prioritize representation, access, and cultural identity within the programs they offer to the public. We are dedicated to building a broader and more collaborative national trails community, including people of varied backgrounds and identities.

The Partnership is a dynamic organization that seeks to infuse its values in all aspects of its work. We are committed to perpetual growth and learning, and strive to recognize and understand our biases. We are cognizant that intention in thought is not enough, and so we aspire to put intention into action. In doing so, we will continually observe successes and mistakes in our efforts to enhance equity and challenge ourselves to dismantle barriers, while constructing potential opportunities to learn, change, and consistently remain accountable.

In championing a culture of **justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion**, the Partnership aspires to cultivate greater strength and resilience within the Partnership and beyond our network as we welcome all to protect, enjoy, and support the National Trails System and public lands.

Adopted by the Partnership Board February 8, 2020